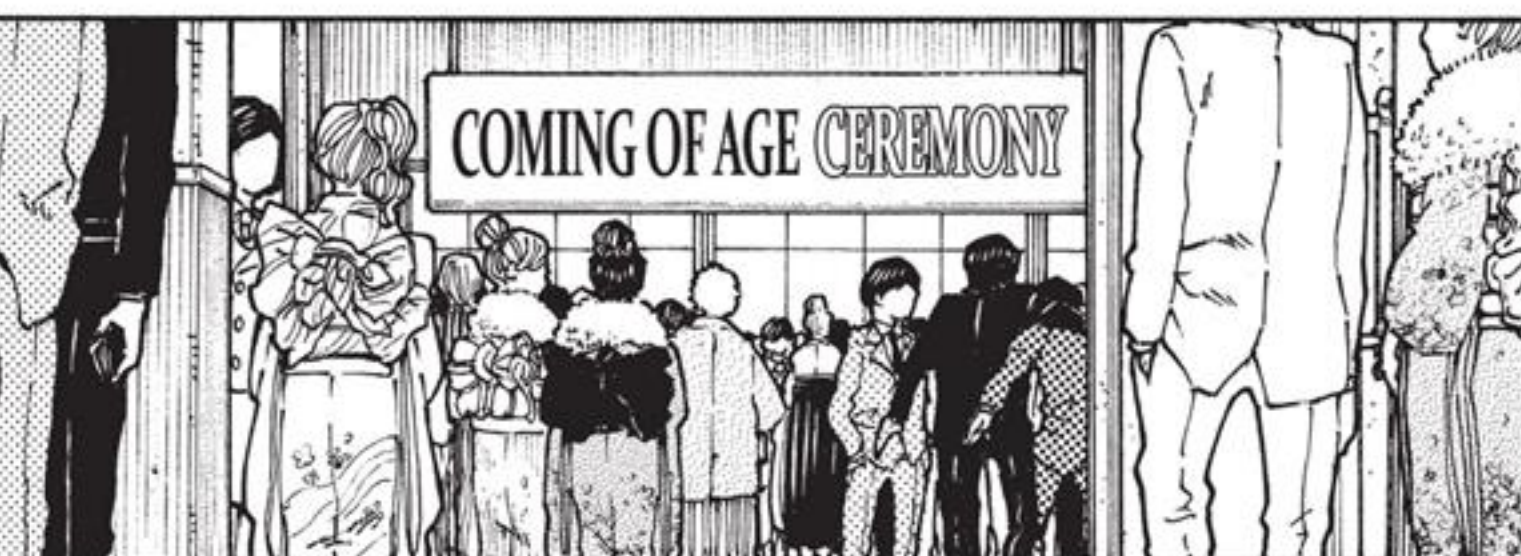
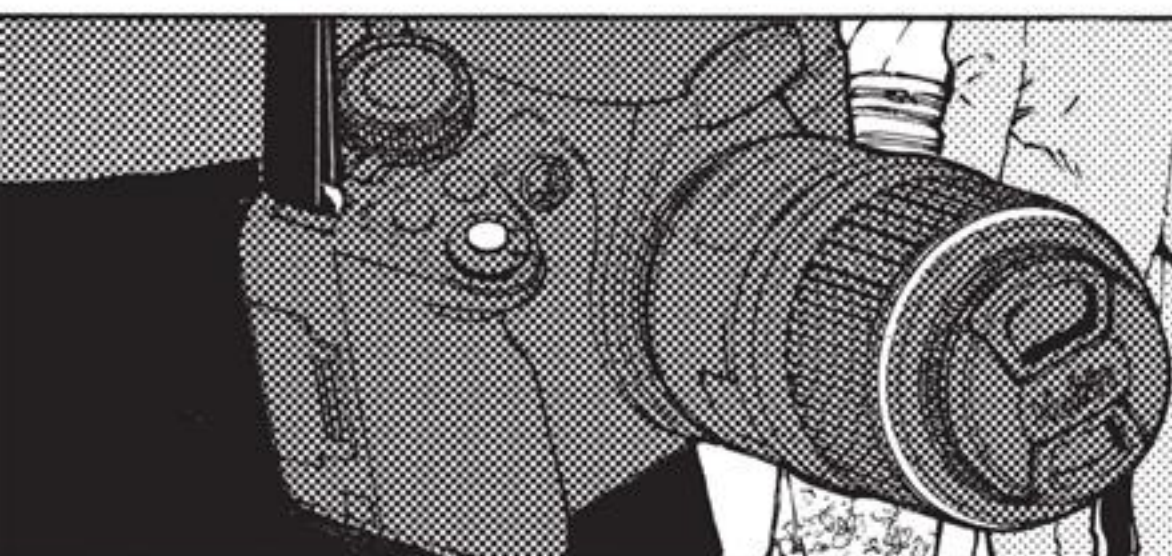
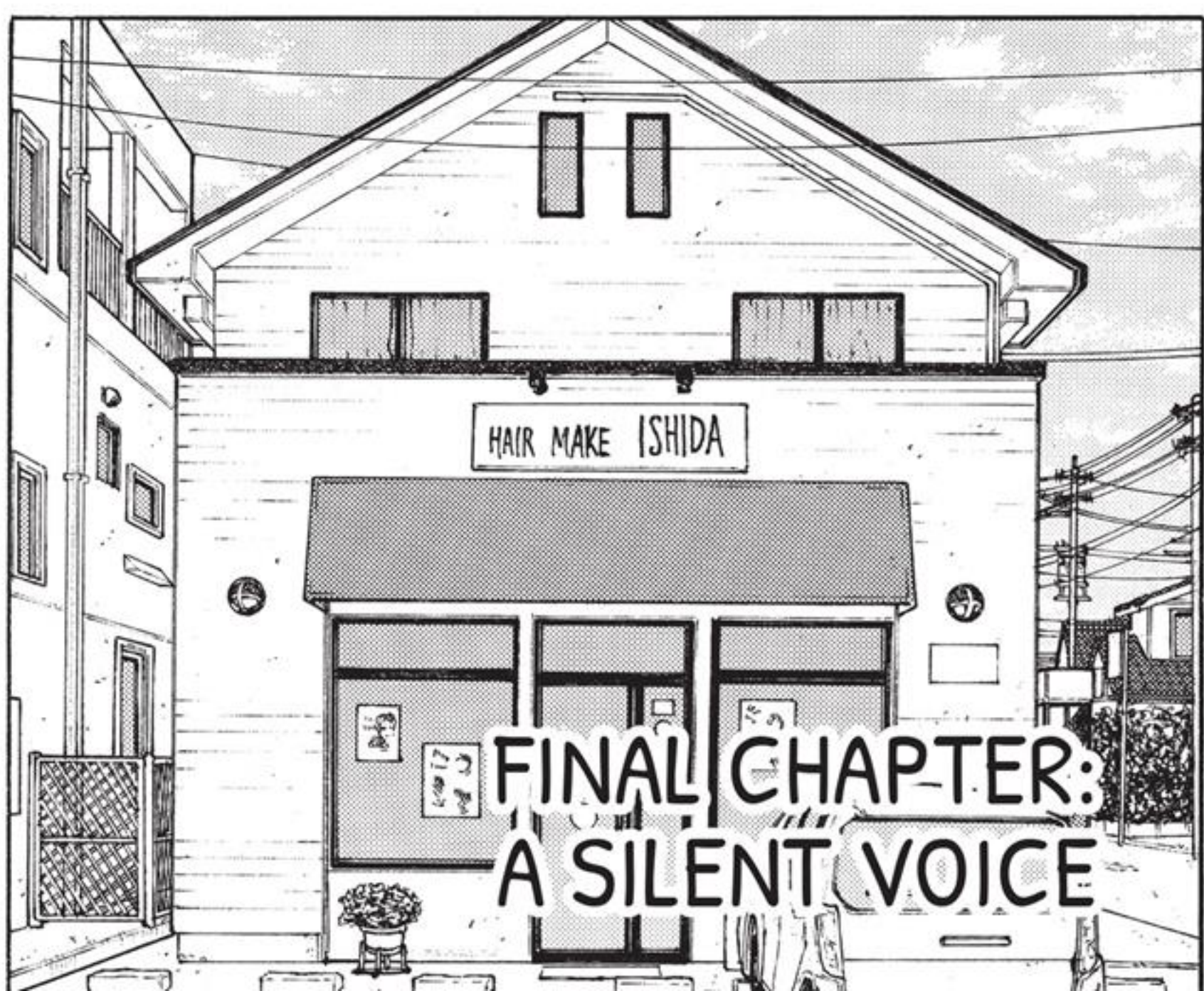
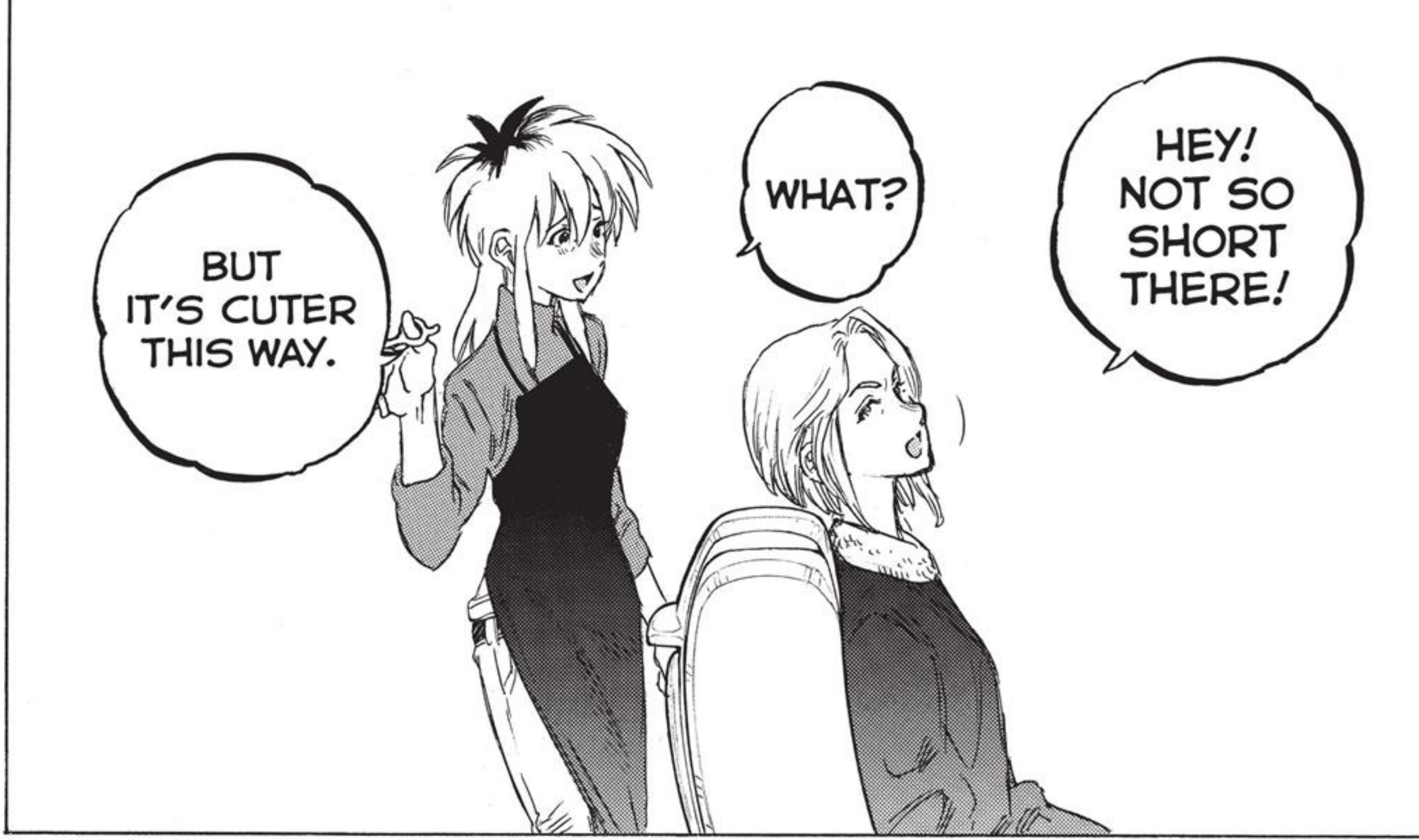




BOY,
THEY'RE
LATE...





BUT
IT'S CUTER
THIS WAY.

WHAT?

HEY!
NOT SO
SHORT
THERE!

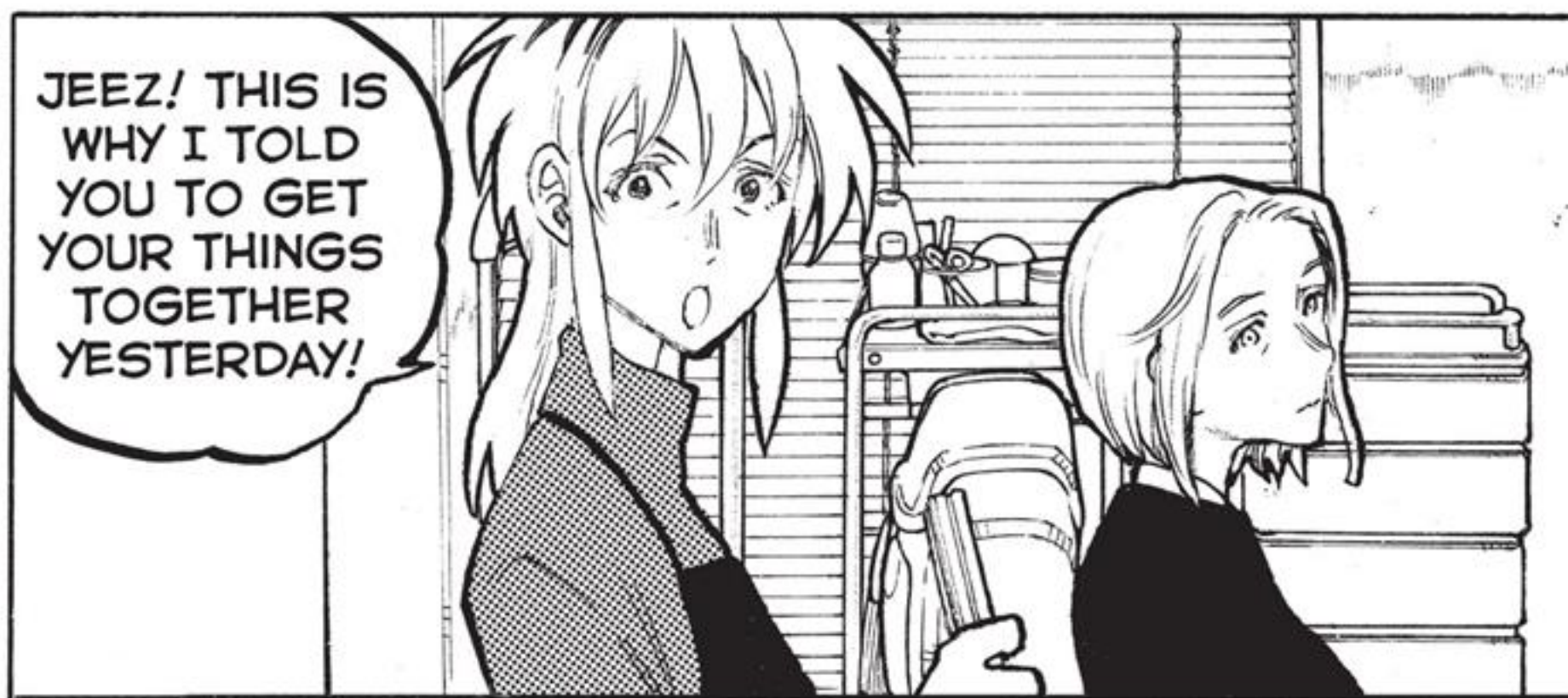


MOM,
HAVE YOU
SEEN MY
TIE?!

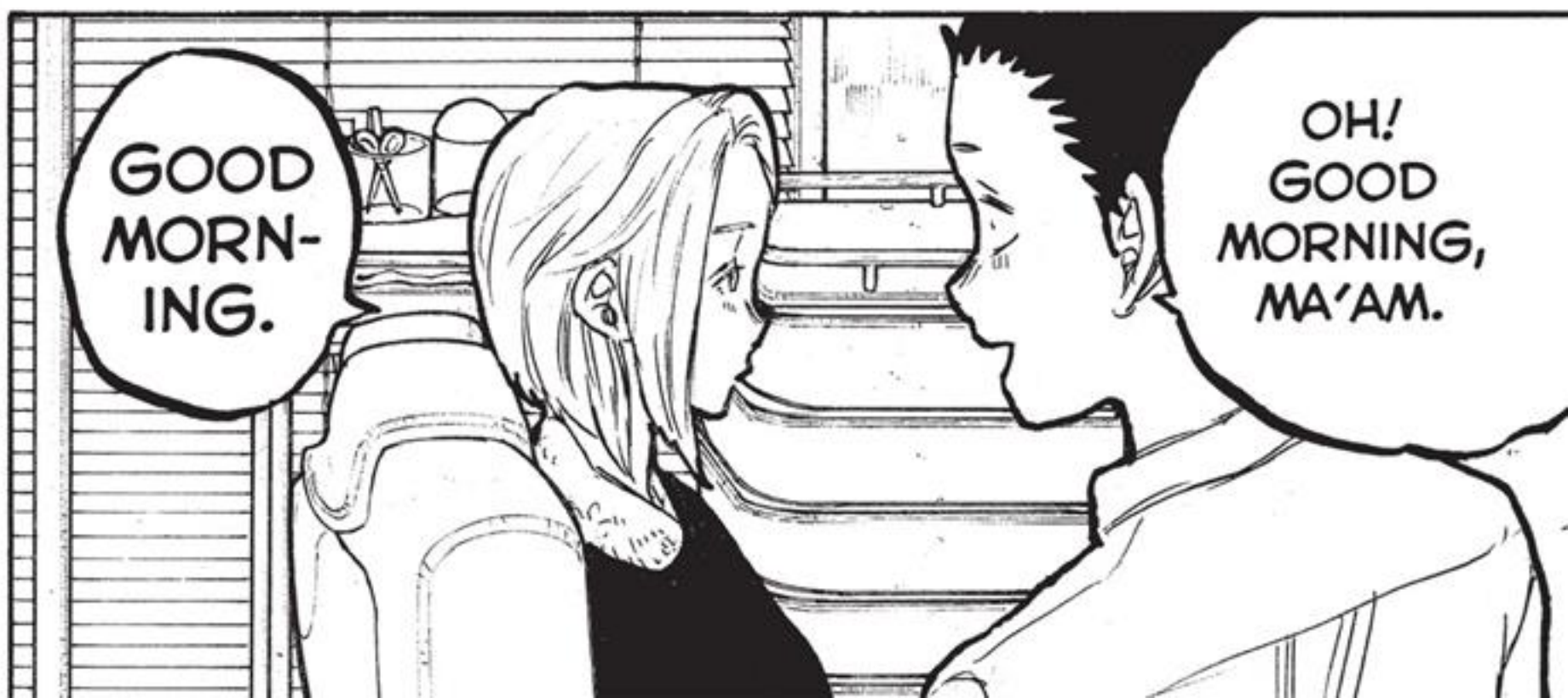


HAS
SHOKO
ALREADY
LEFT THE
HOUSE?

IT
DOESN'T
APPEAR
SO. SEE?

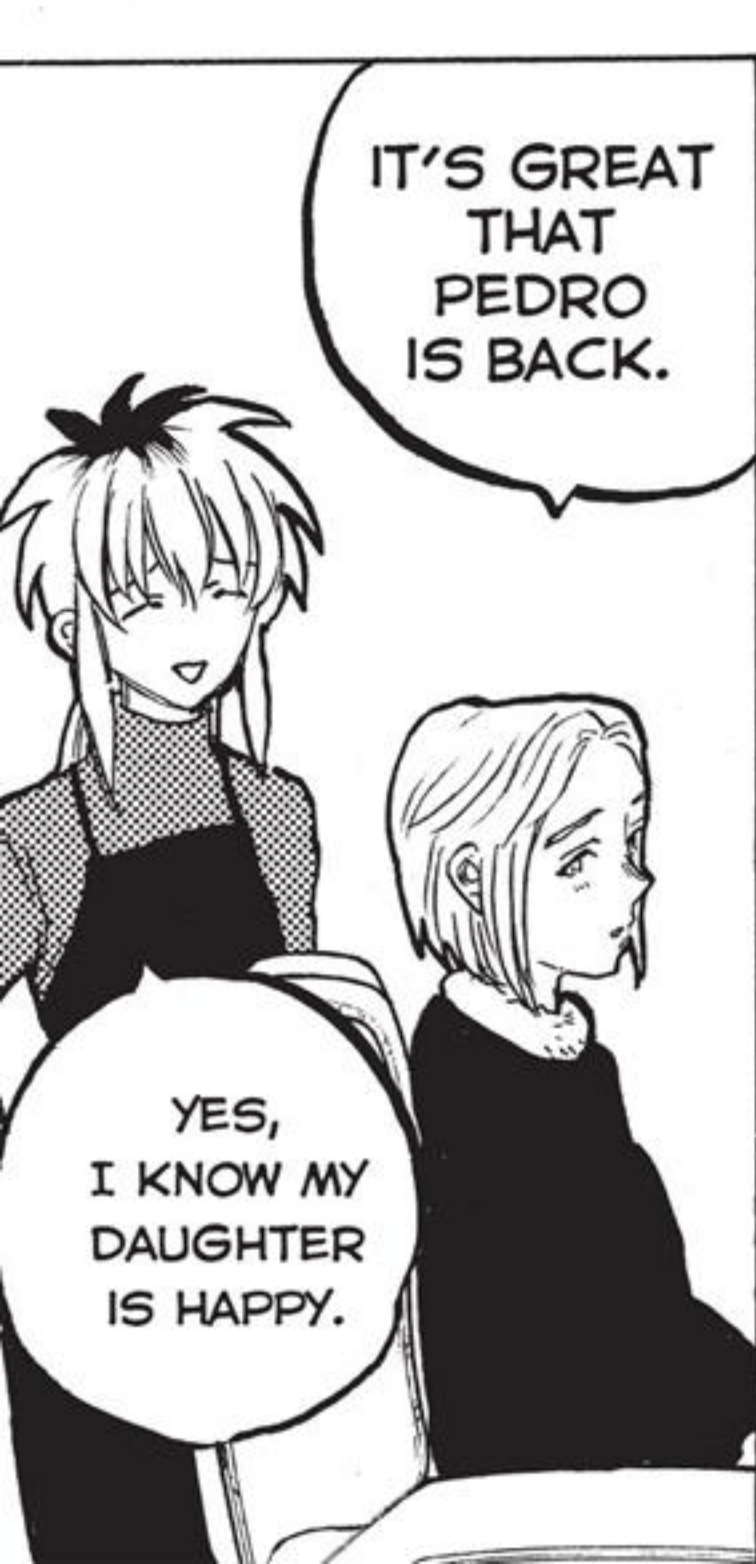


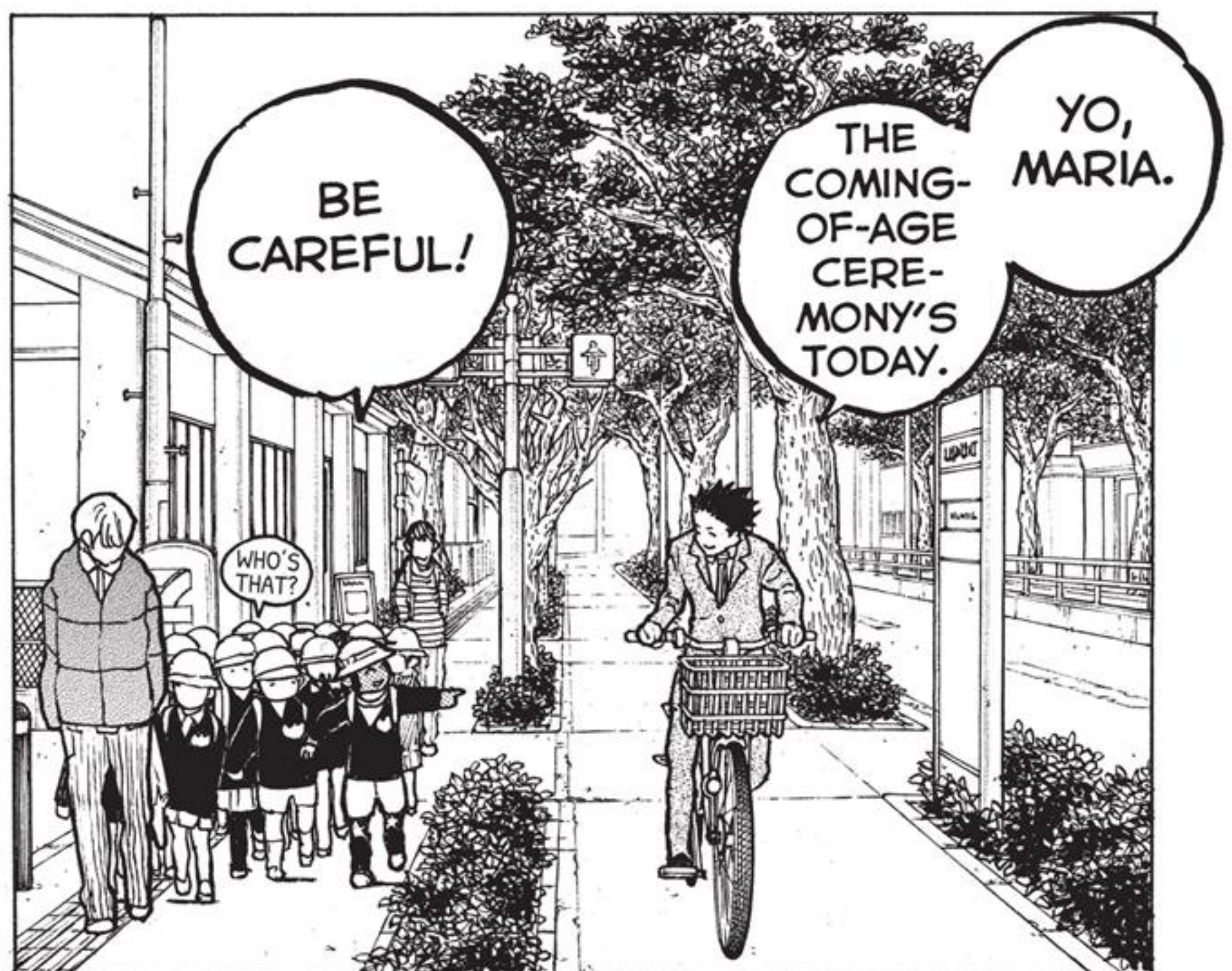
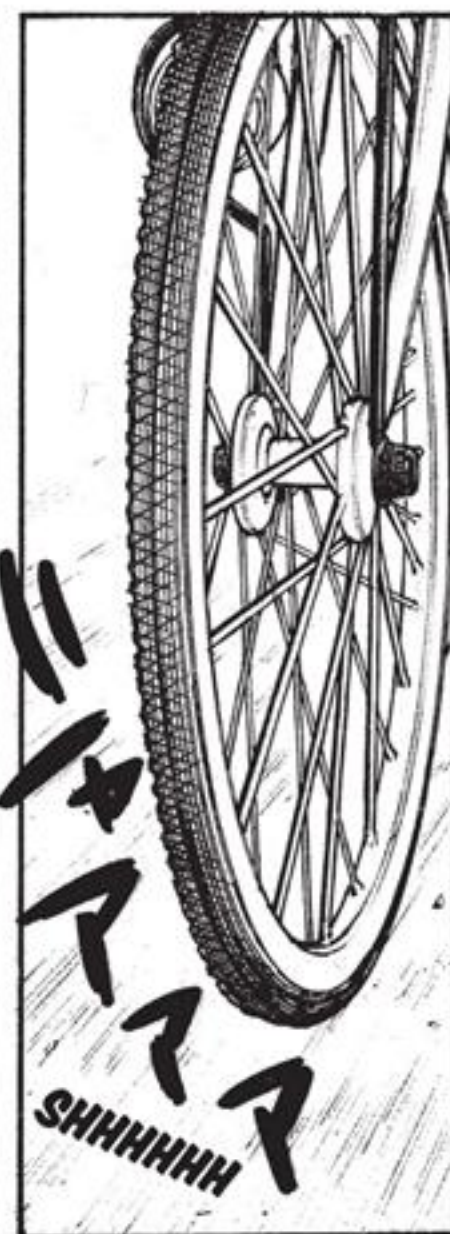
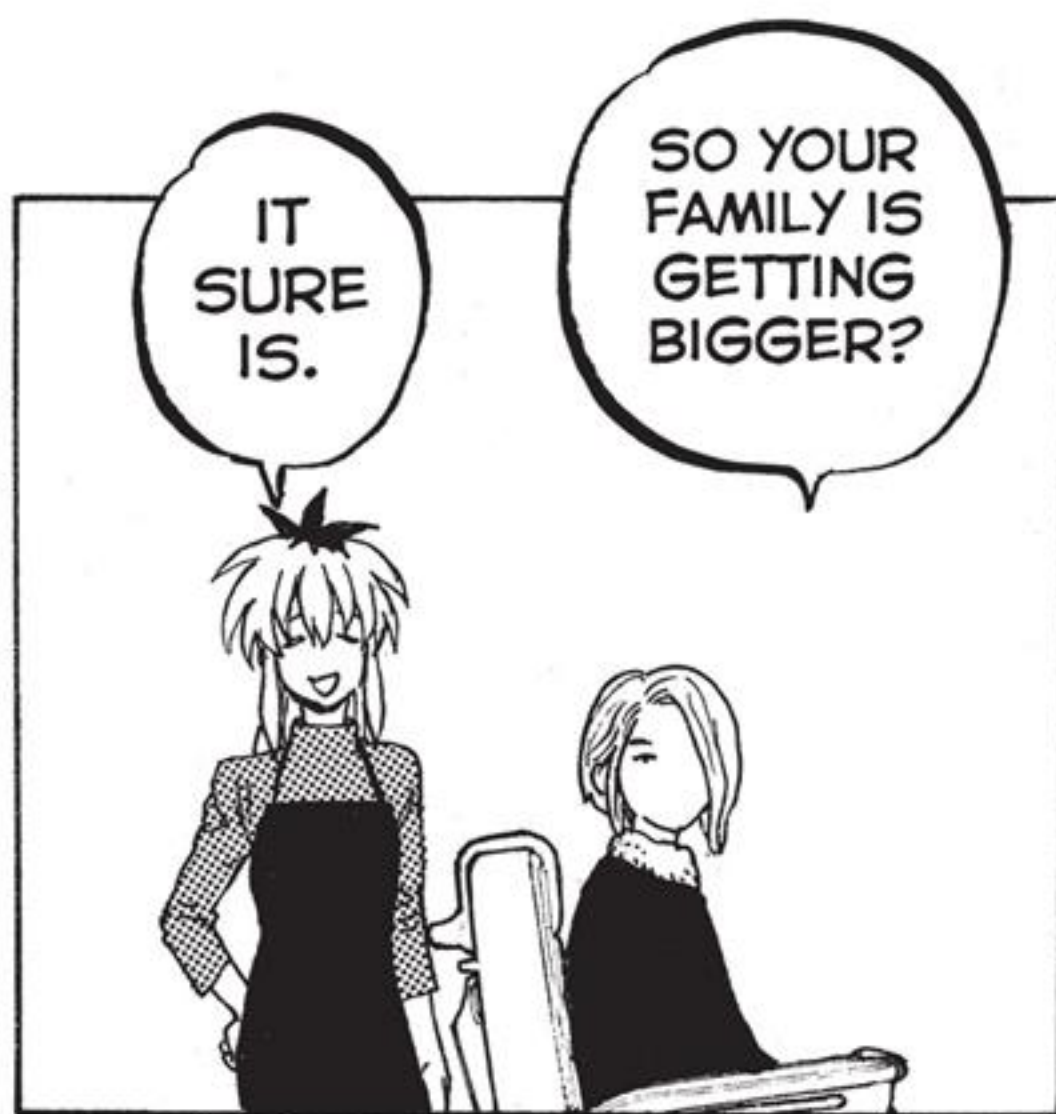
JEEZ! THIS IS
WHY I TOLD
YOU TO GET
YOUR THINGS
TOGETHER
YESTERDAY!



GOOD
MORN-
ING.

OH!
GOOD
MORNING,
MA'AM.







BY THE WAY,
WHERE IS
EVERYONE
?

HAVEN'T
SEEM
'EM
YET.



AW,
COME
ON!

THAT'S
RICH
COMIN'
FROM YOU,
SHORTY.



YO, SHOYA!
I GUESS
THE CLOTHES
REALLY DO
MAKE THE
MAN, EH?



YO,
YUZURU.
SHOWIN'
OFF THOSE
CHICKEN
LEGS?
HAH!



I
WON'T QUIT
ANYTHING,
THE SEXUAL
HARASSMENT
OR MY POOP
HEAD.

THERE
YOU ARE,
POOP HEAD.
QUIT IT WITH
THE SEXUAL
HARASS-
MENT.

TOMO-
HIRO!



I'M A
MAN WHO
NEVER
LEARNS.

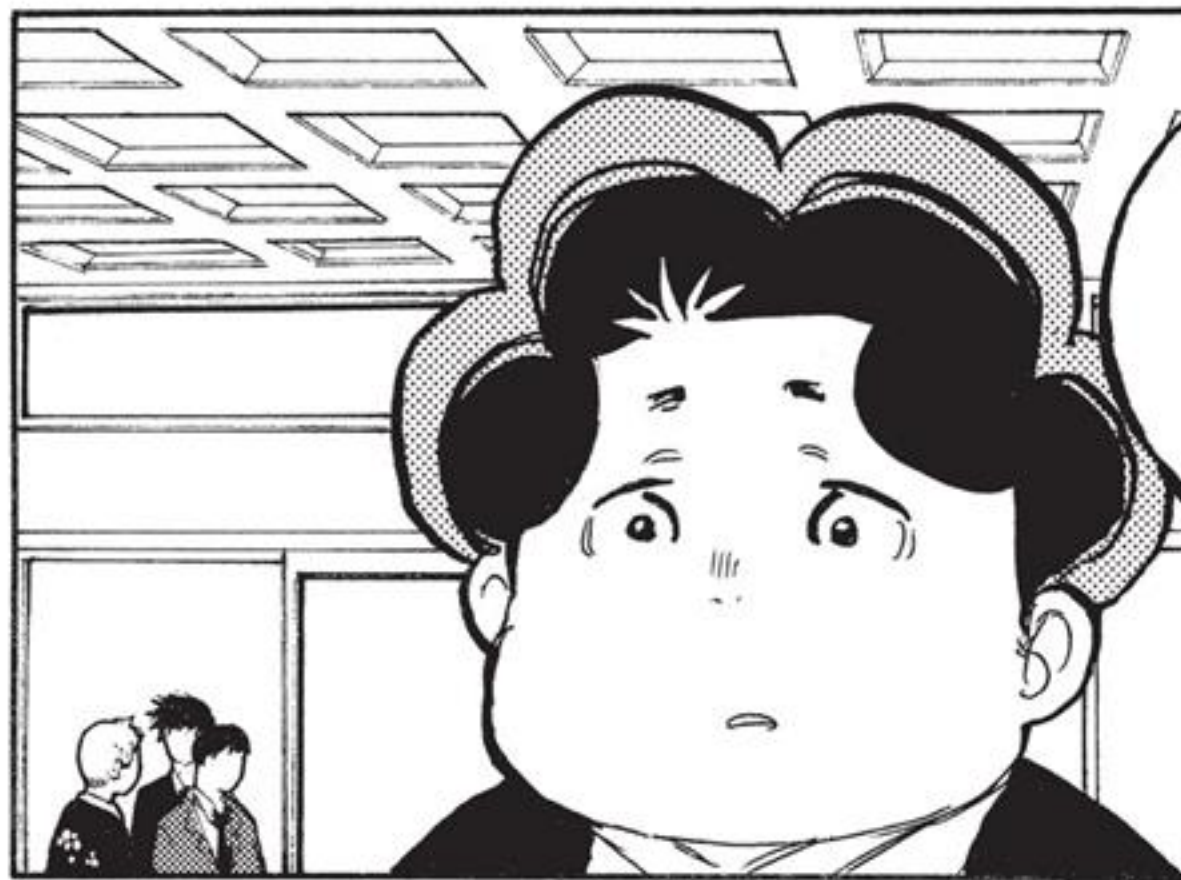


PLUS, YOU
KEEP USING
THE "FRIEND-
SHIP" THEME,
BUT THE
JUDGES KEEP
TELLING
YOU YOU'RE
NOT CUT OUT
FOR IT!

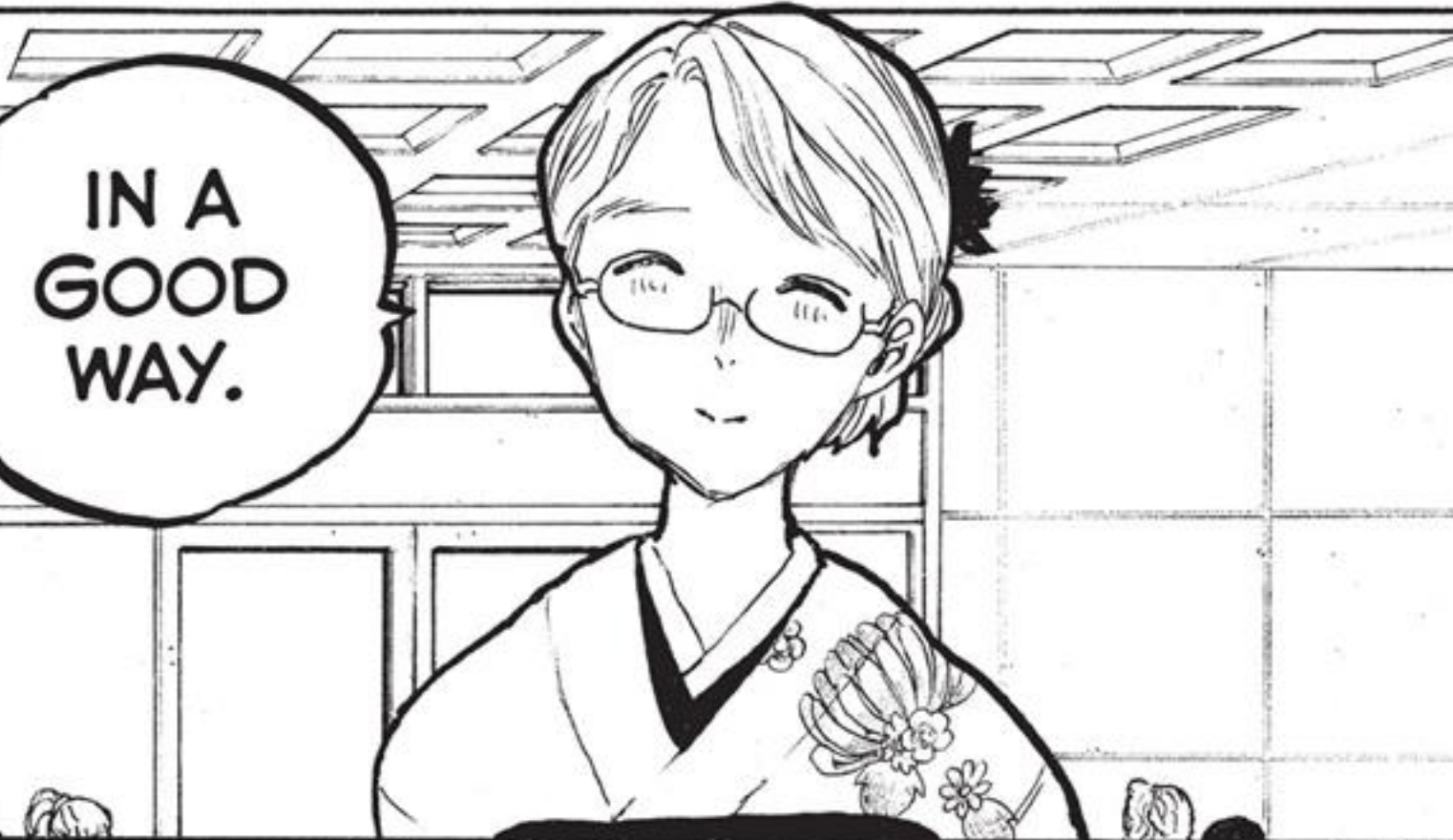
HUH?
DIDN'T WE
JUST FILM
ONE?



ALSO, MY
NEXT FILM'S
THEME IS
FRIENDSHIP.
YOU'LL HELP
ME, RIGHT?



IN A
GOOD
WAY.



OH!
OVER
HERE,
SATOSHI!



HEHEH.

HEY, MIKI!
LONG TIME
NO SEE!



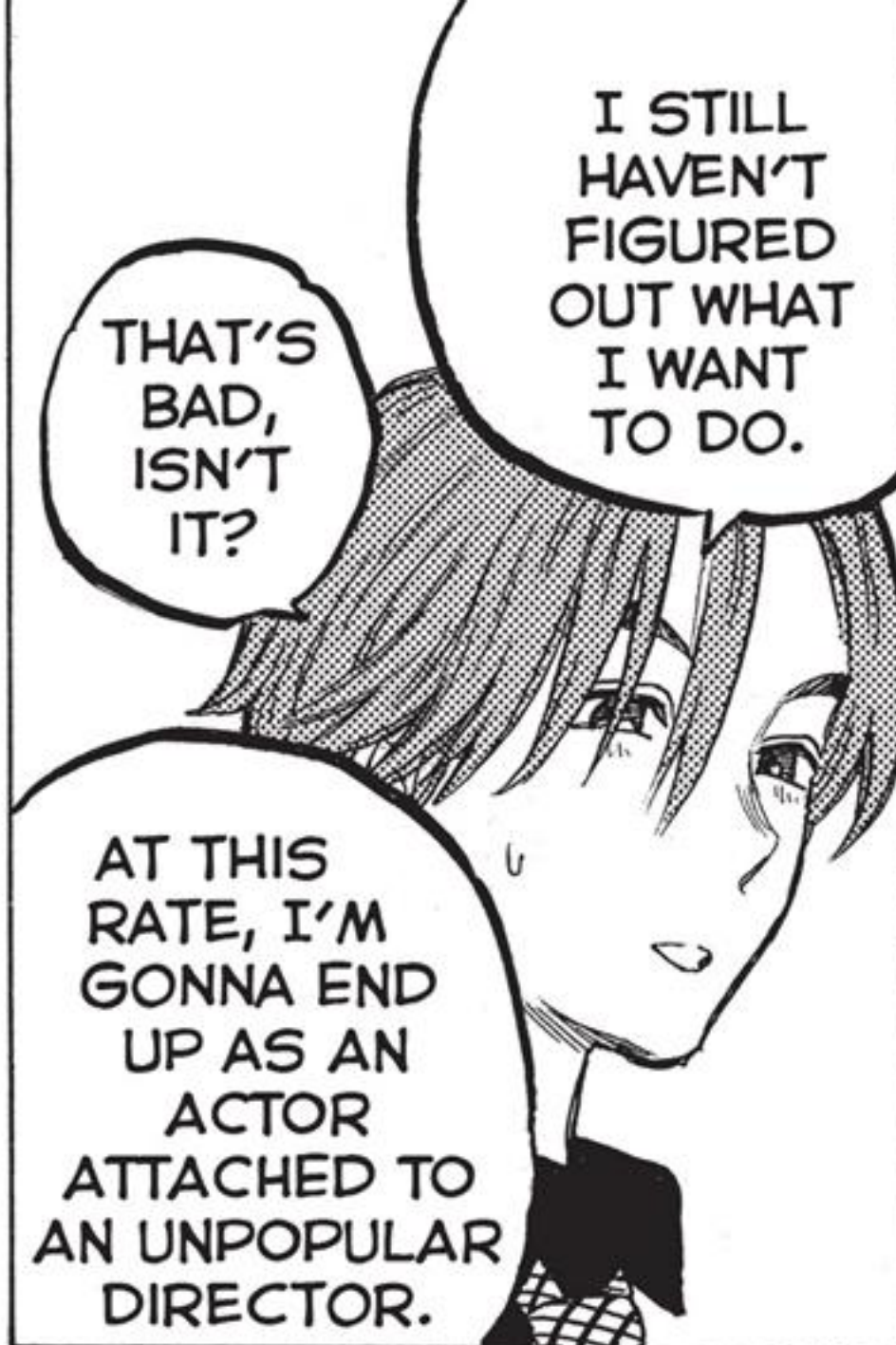
HEY,
EVERY-
BODY.

OH.



WHERE'S SHOKO AND THE OTHERS?!

LET'S GO, YA-SHO!



THAT'S BAD, ISN'T IT?

I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT I WANT TO DO.

AT THIS RATE, I'M GONNA END UP AS AN ACTOR ATTACHED TO AN UNPOPULAR DIRECTOR.



ARE YOU GRADUATING THIS YEAR, SHOYA?

YEP, BUT I'VE STILL GOT EXAMS LEFT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?



OH!

OH, THE CEREMONY'S ABOUT TO START.

LOOKIN' FORWARD TO IT, MASHI!



△AH△
...COMING OUT IN THIS COLD TO...

△AH△
...TODAY WE THANK YOU FOR...

△AH△
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...



HMM?



< Incoming

from: Miyoko Sahara

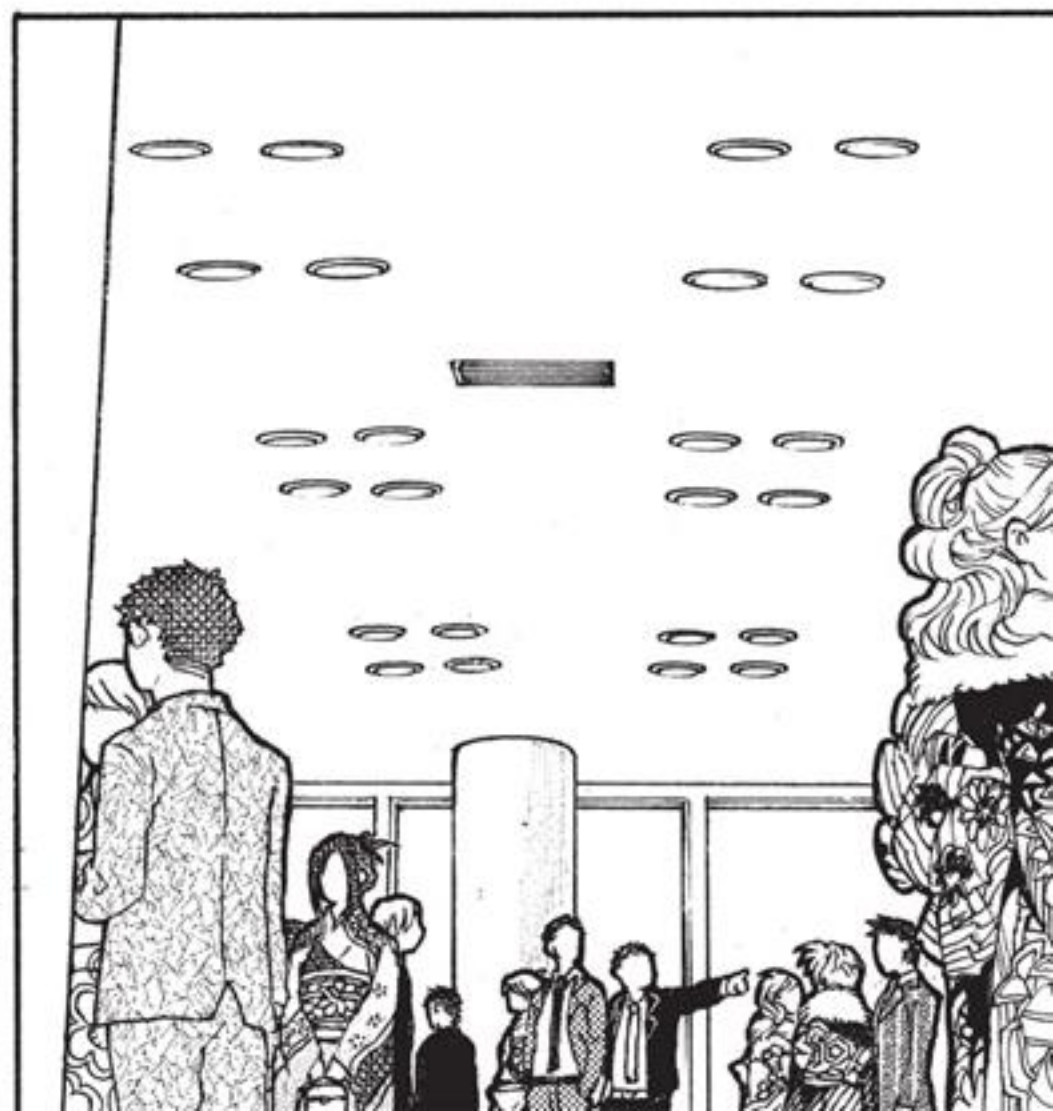
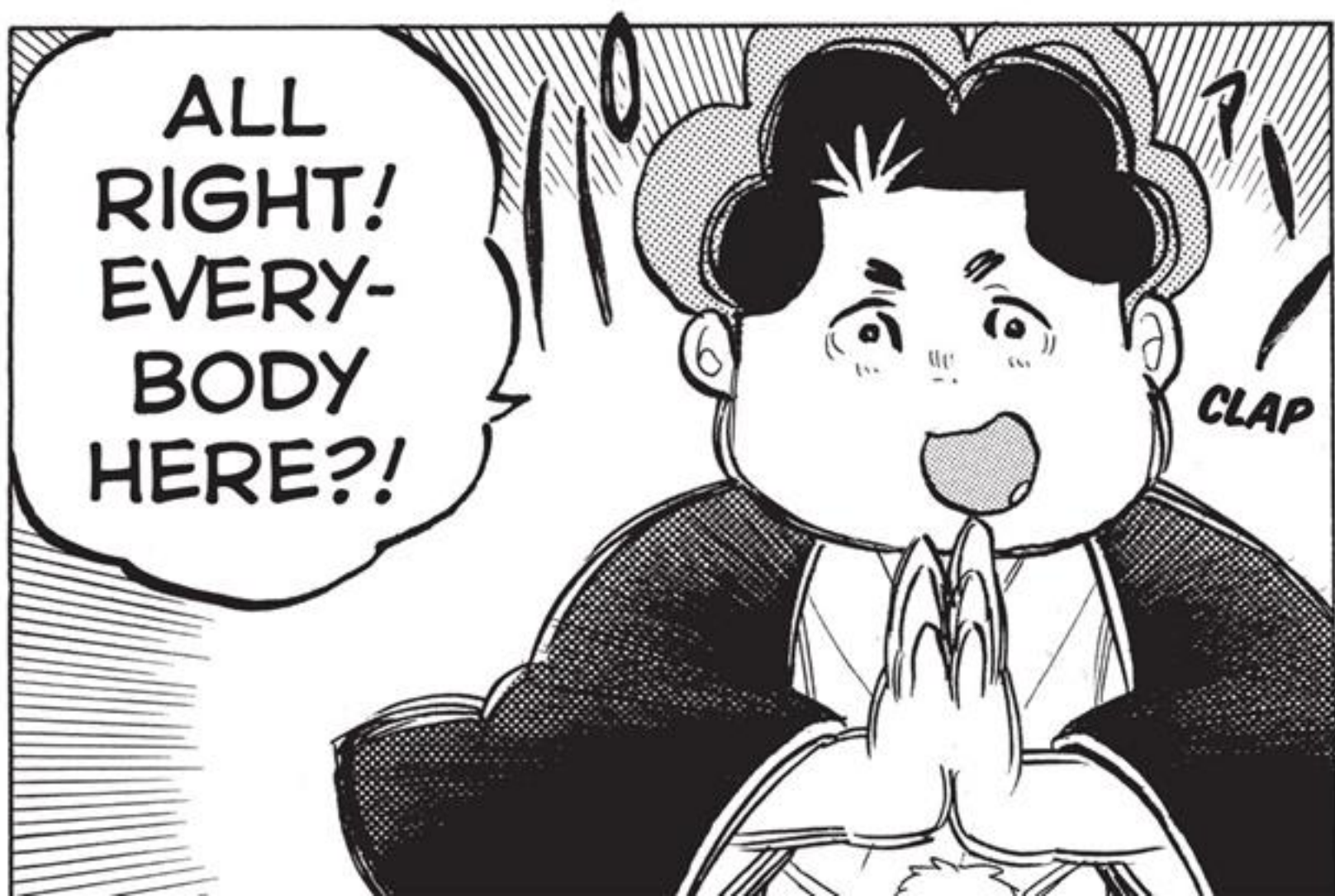
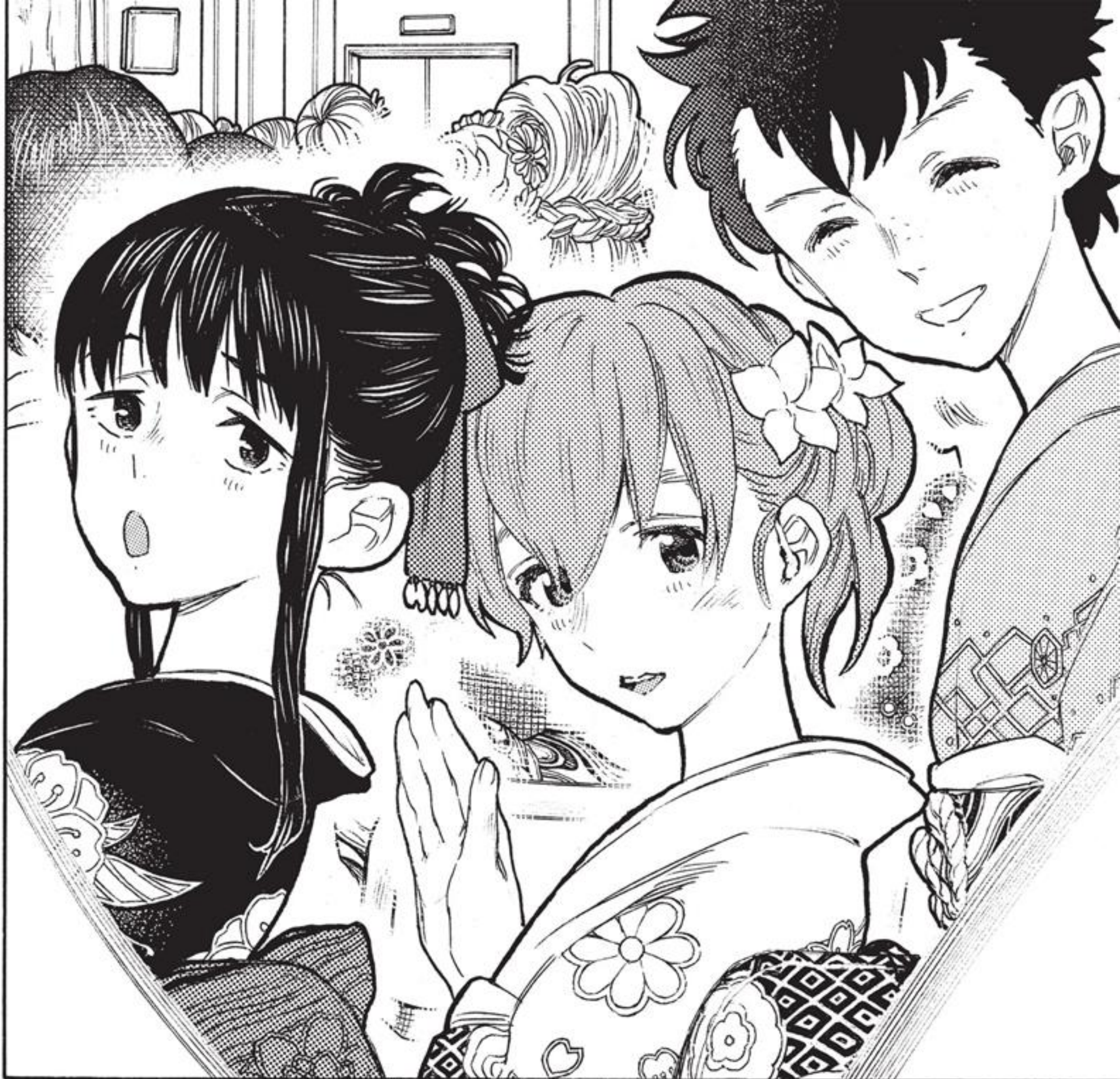
sub: Shoya!

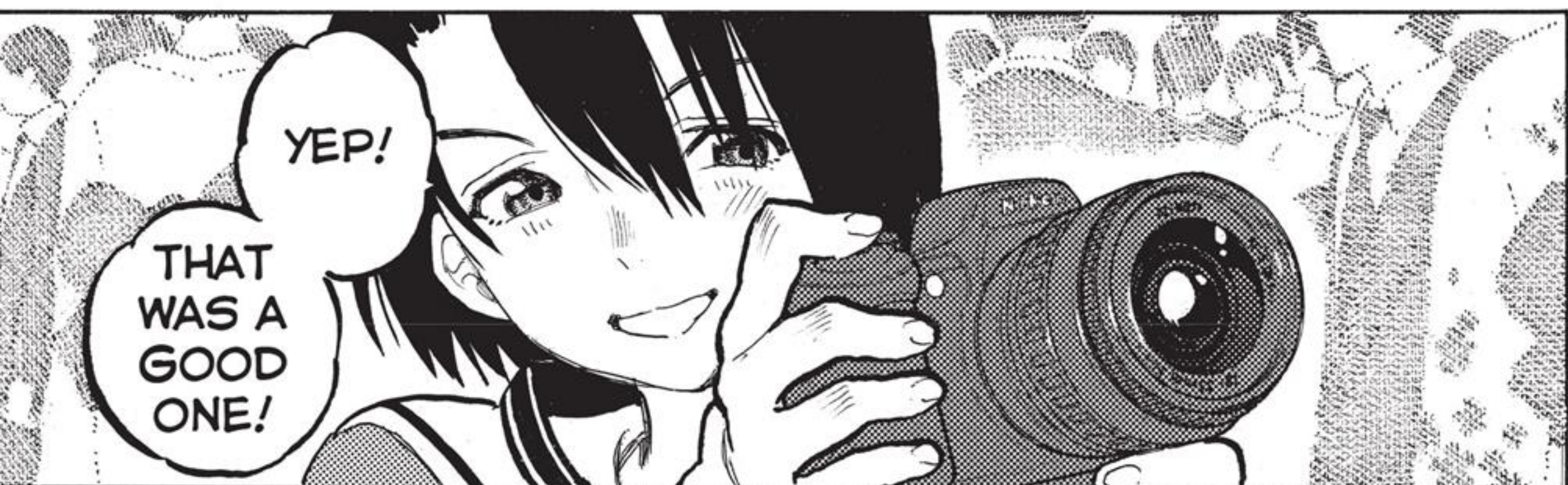
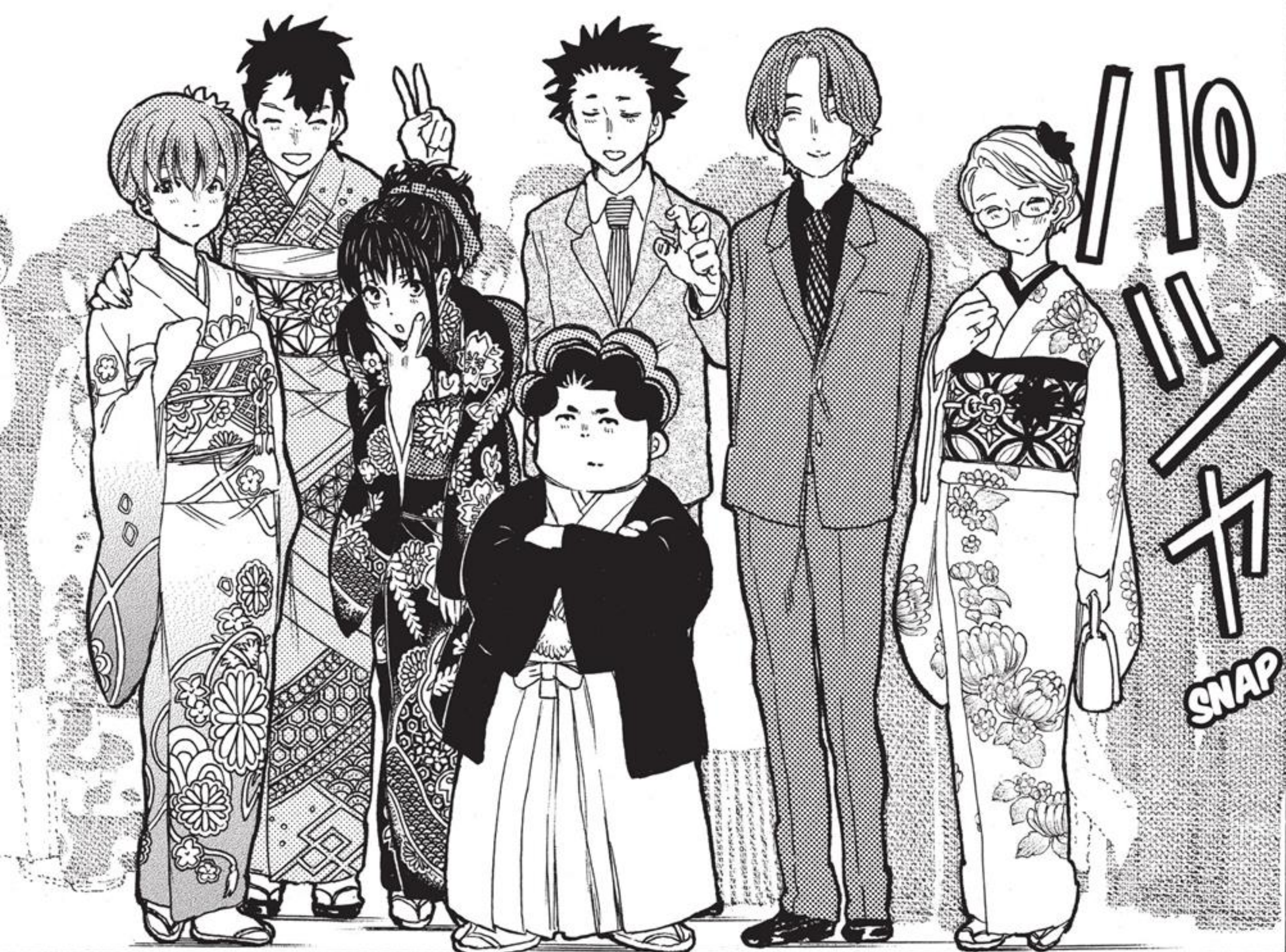
Look up!
1 o'clock!

MIYOKO?



BZZZ







THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TELL THEM.

I'VE
GOTTA
GO.



I
SPOTTED
AN OLD
CLASS-
MATE.



DON'T
FOR-
GET!

OH.
THEN,
SEE YOU
AT SIX!



YEAH.



IT'S THE
COMING-OF-
AGE CEREMONY
AND YOU
STILL DON'T
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS?

OH,
TOMO-
HIRO?



APOLO-
GIZE,
YOU
JERKS!

RUN
FOR
IT!

HAHA!
HE'S
LOST
IT!

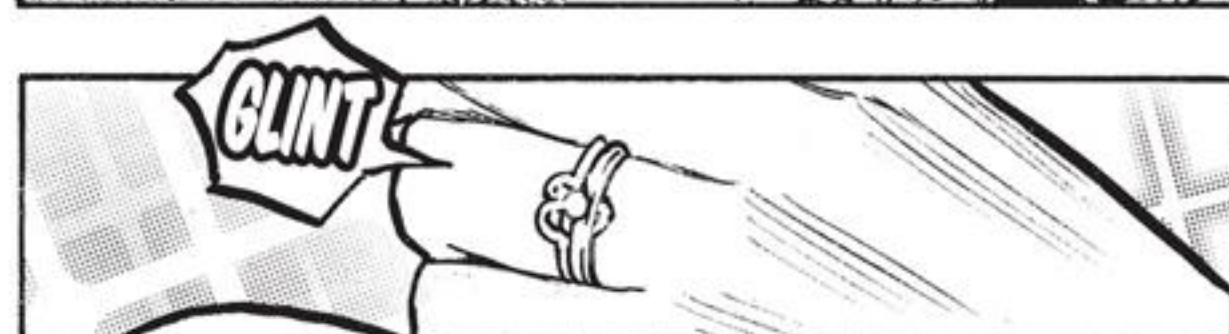
T-
TOMO-
HIRO?!

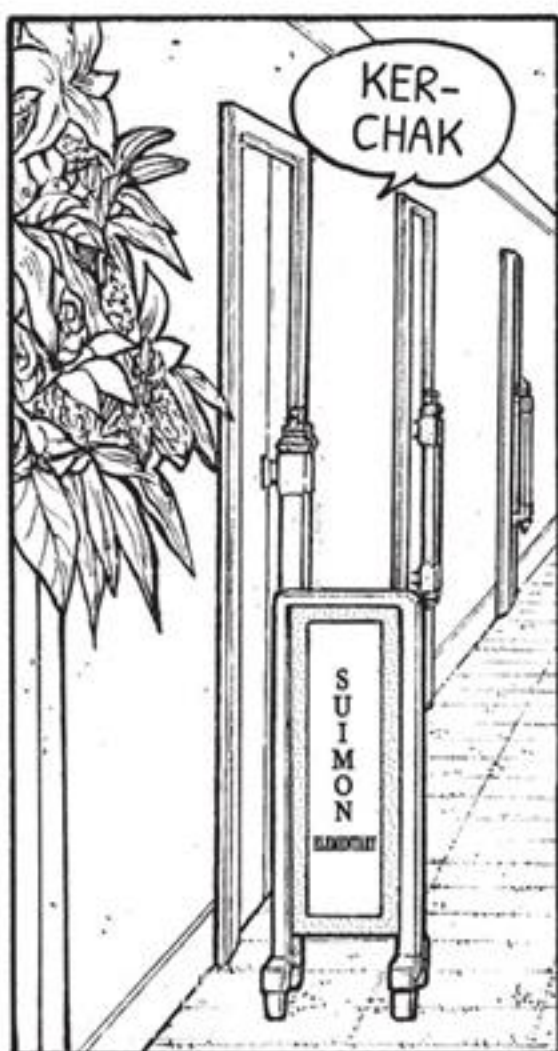
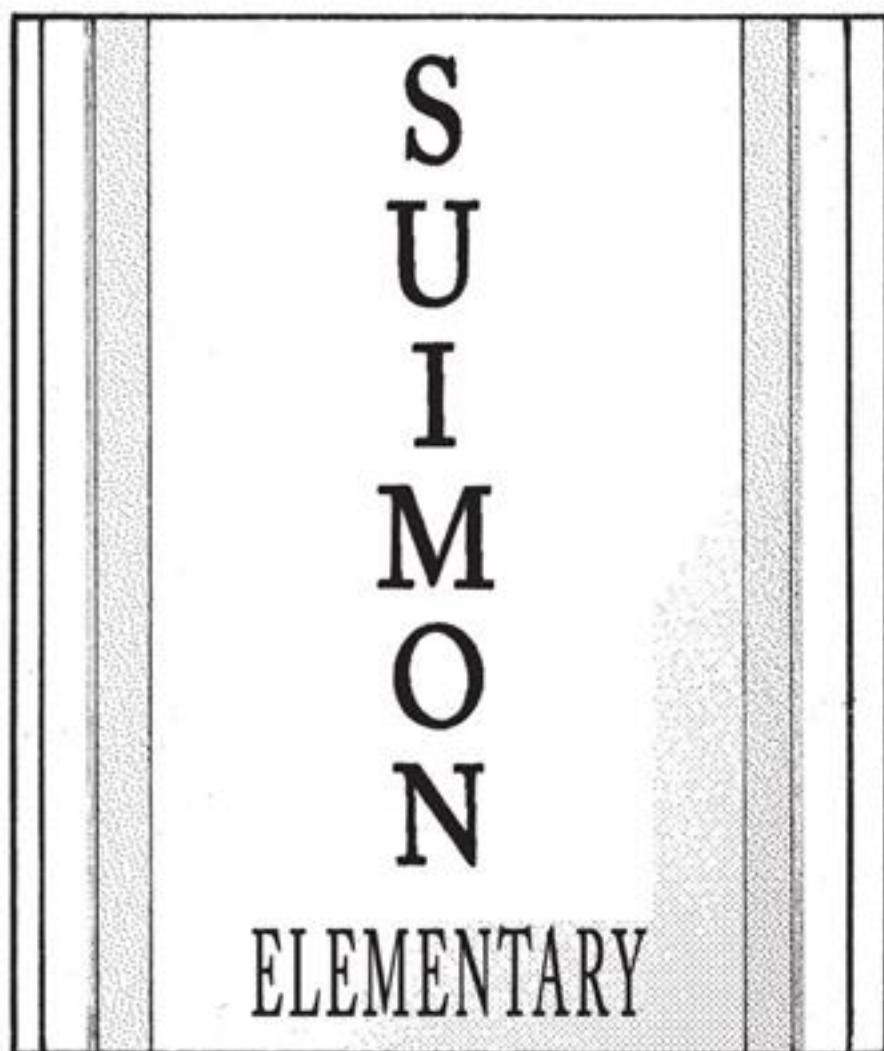
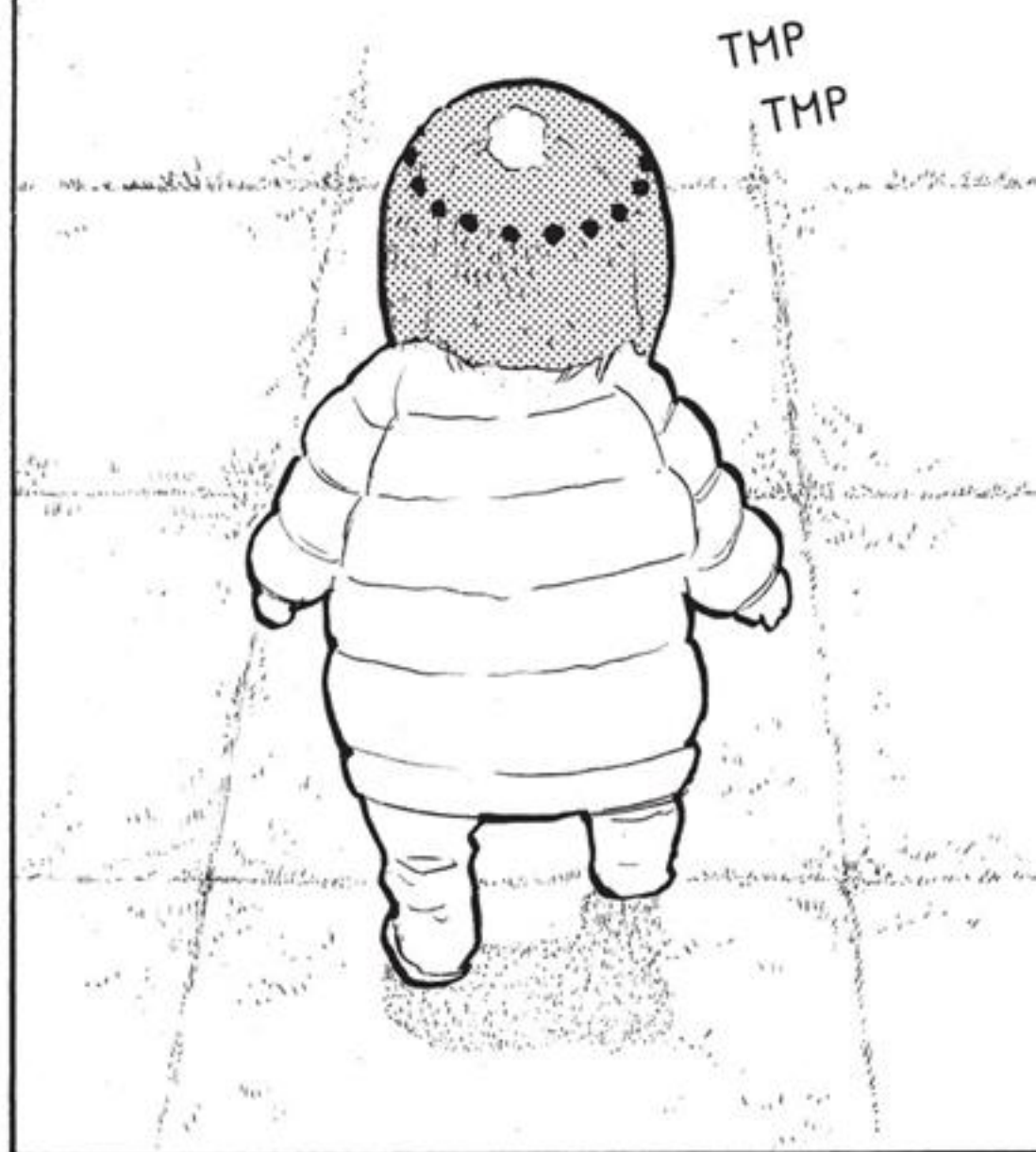
ZOOM



I'VE GOT
FRIENDS.

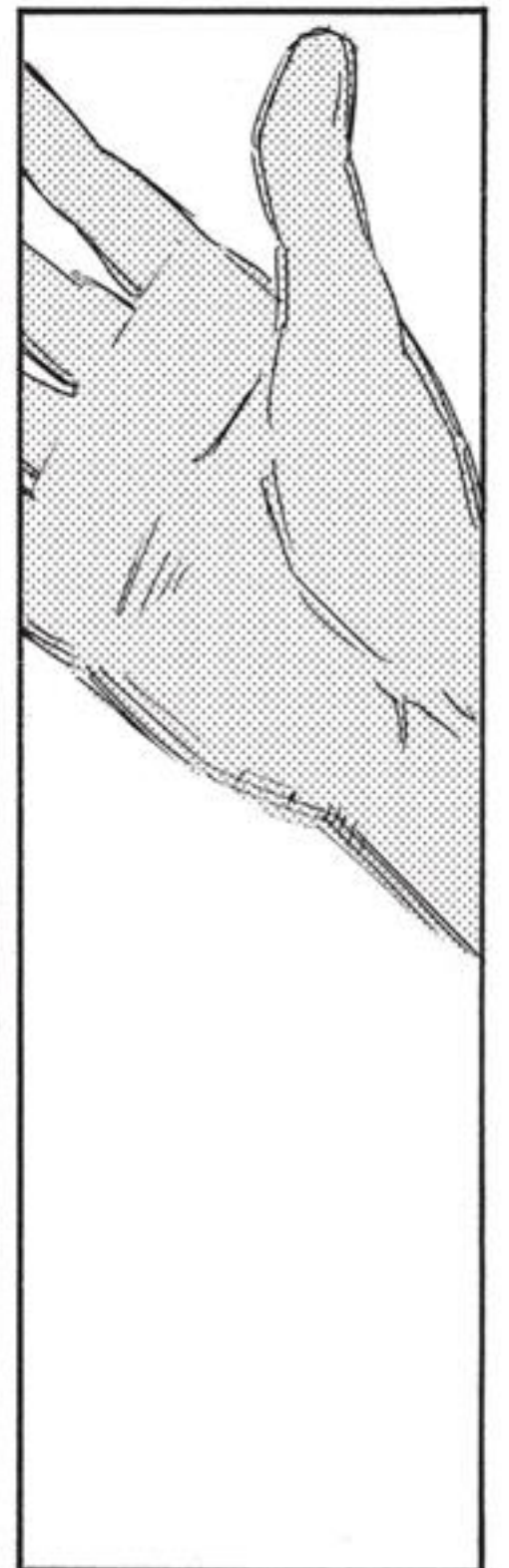
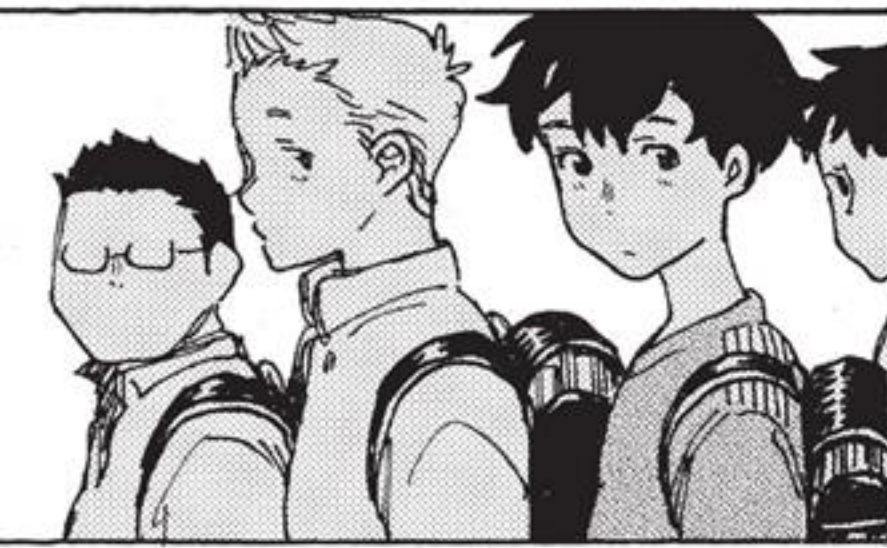
HUH?





AH...

ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THAT DOOR...



OH,
SORRY.
I SPACED
OUT FOR A
SECOND
THERE.

LET'S
GO.



...I
IMAGINED
A BORING
FUTURE
AWAITING
ME.

BACK IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
...

YOU MIGHT
GET SICK
OF HOW
WHOLESOME
AND FULL OF
HOPE IT
ALL IS.

BUT NOW,
EVEN THAT
FUTURE...

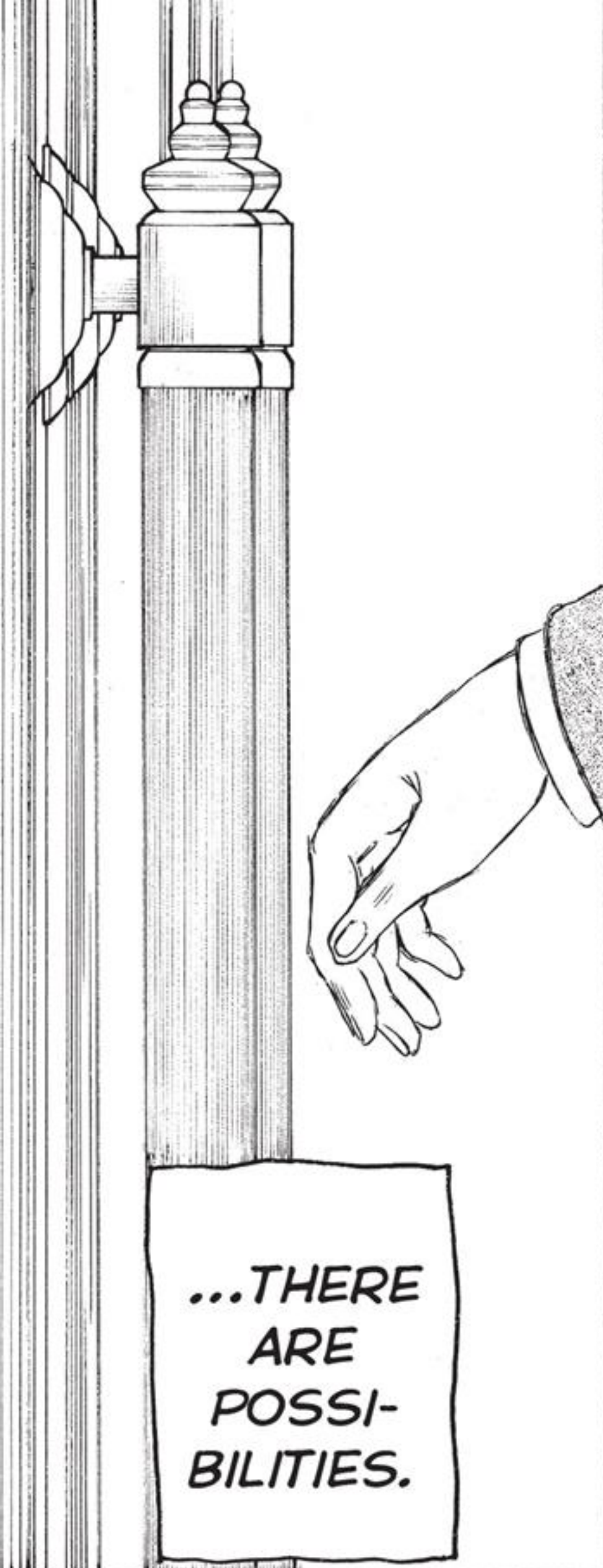
LOOKS
BRIGHT
TO ME.



...I
USED
TO HATE
SHOKO...

JUST
LIKE
HOW...

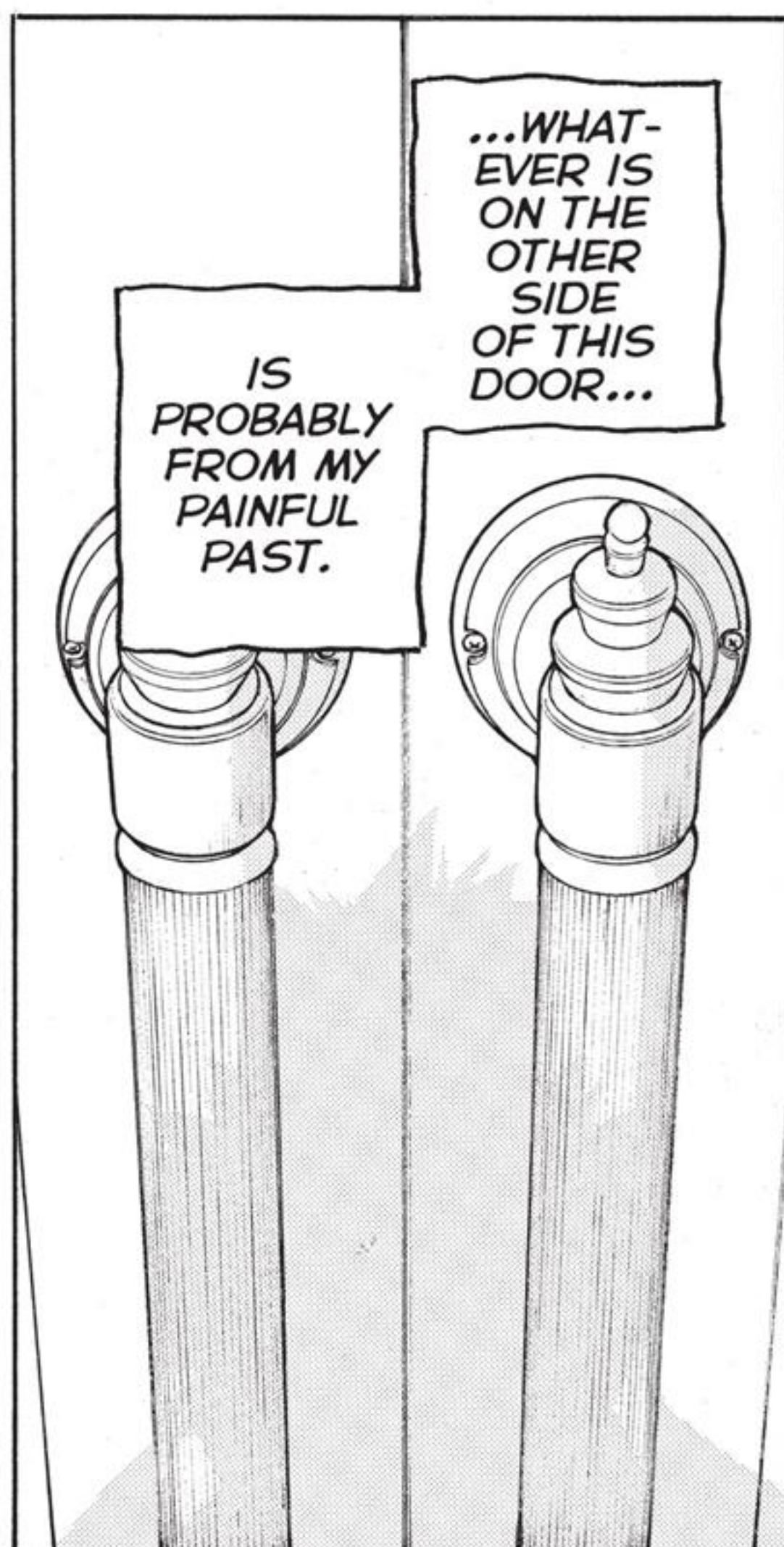




...THERE
ARE
POSSI-
BILITIES.



BUT
THERE'S
MORE
THAN
THAT...



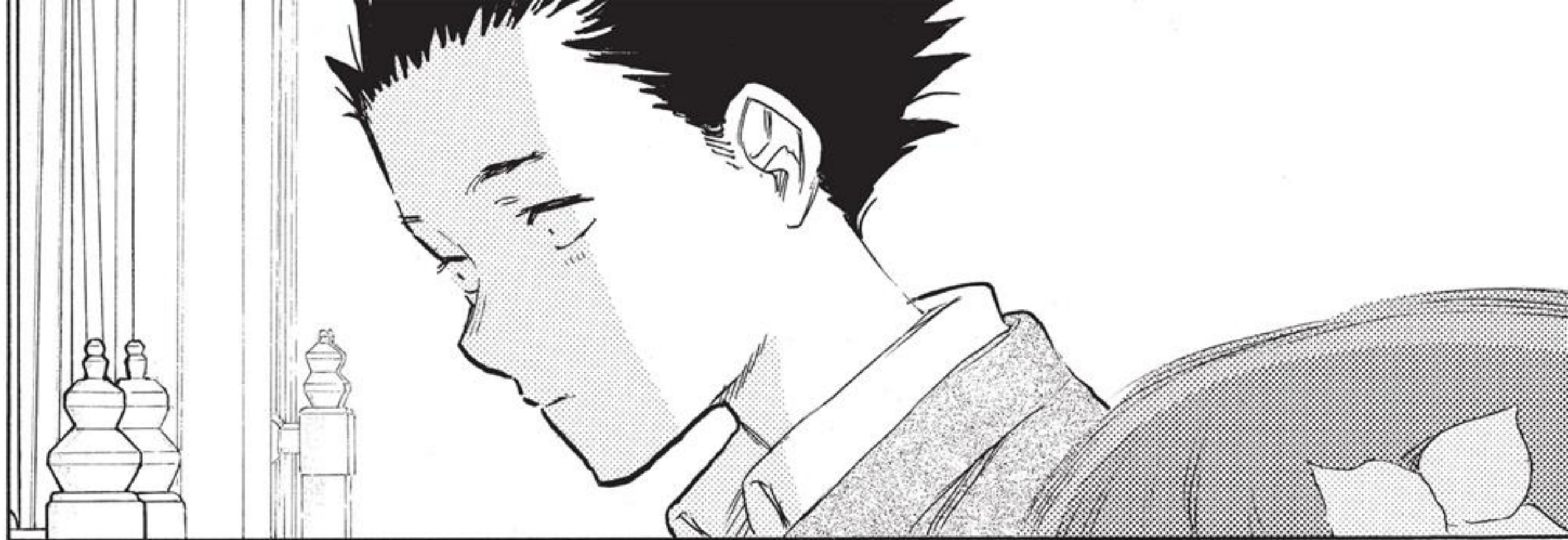
IS
PROBABLY
FROM MY
PAINFUL
PAST.

...WHAT-
EVER IS
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE
OF THIS
DOOR...

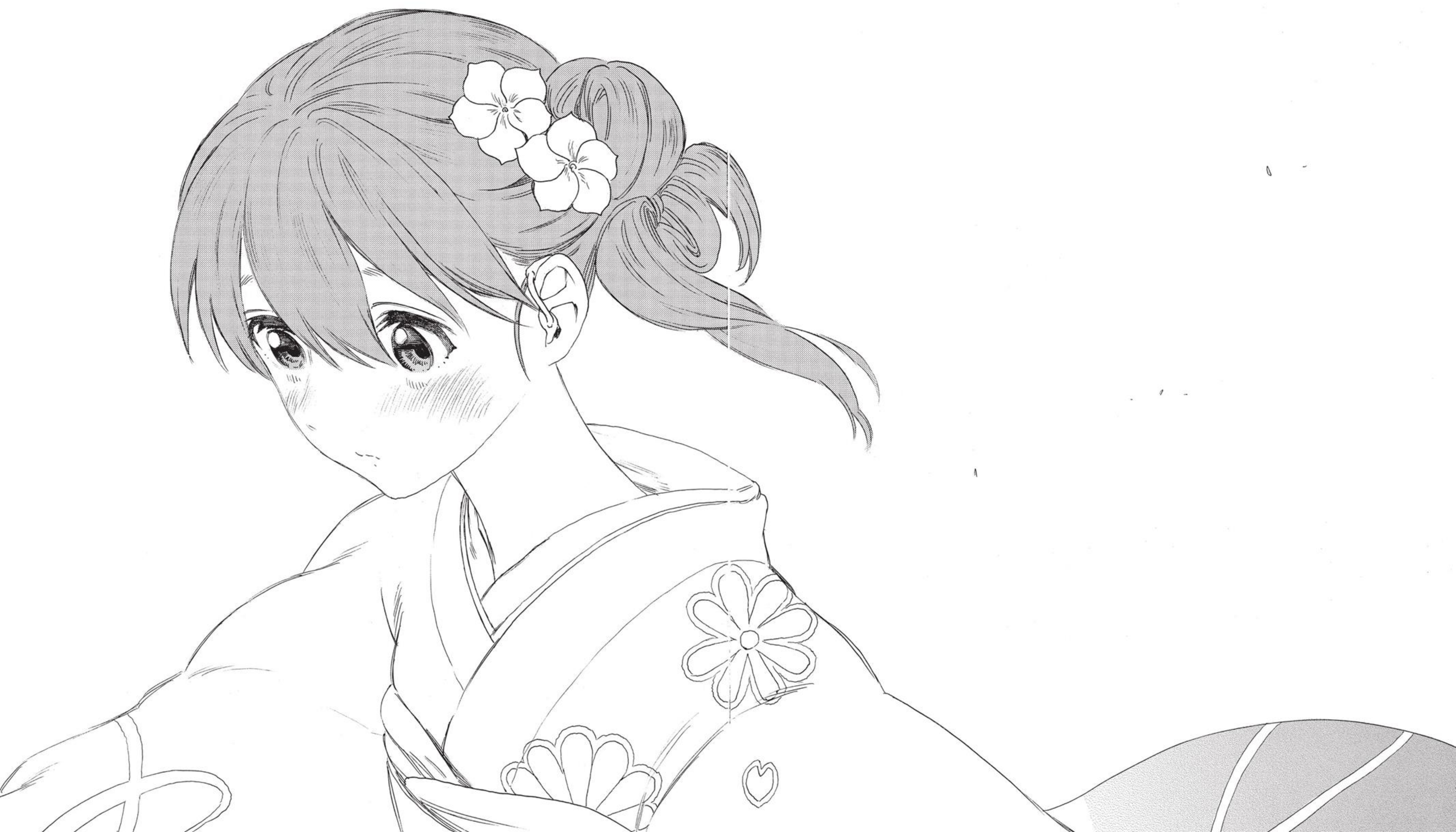


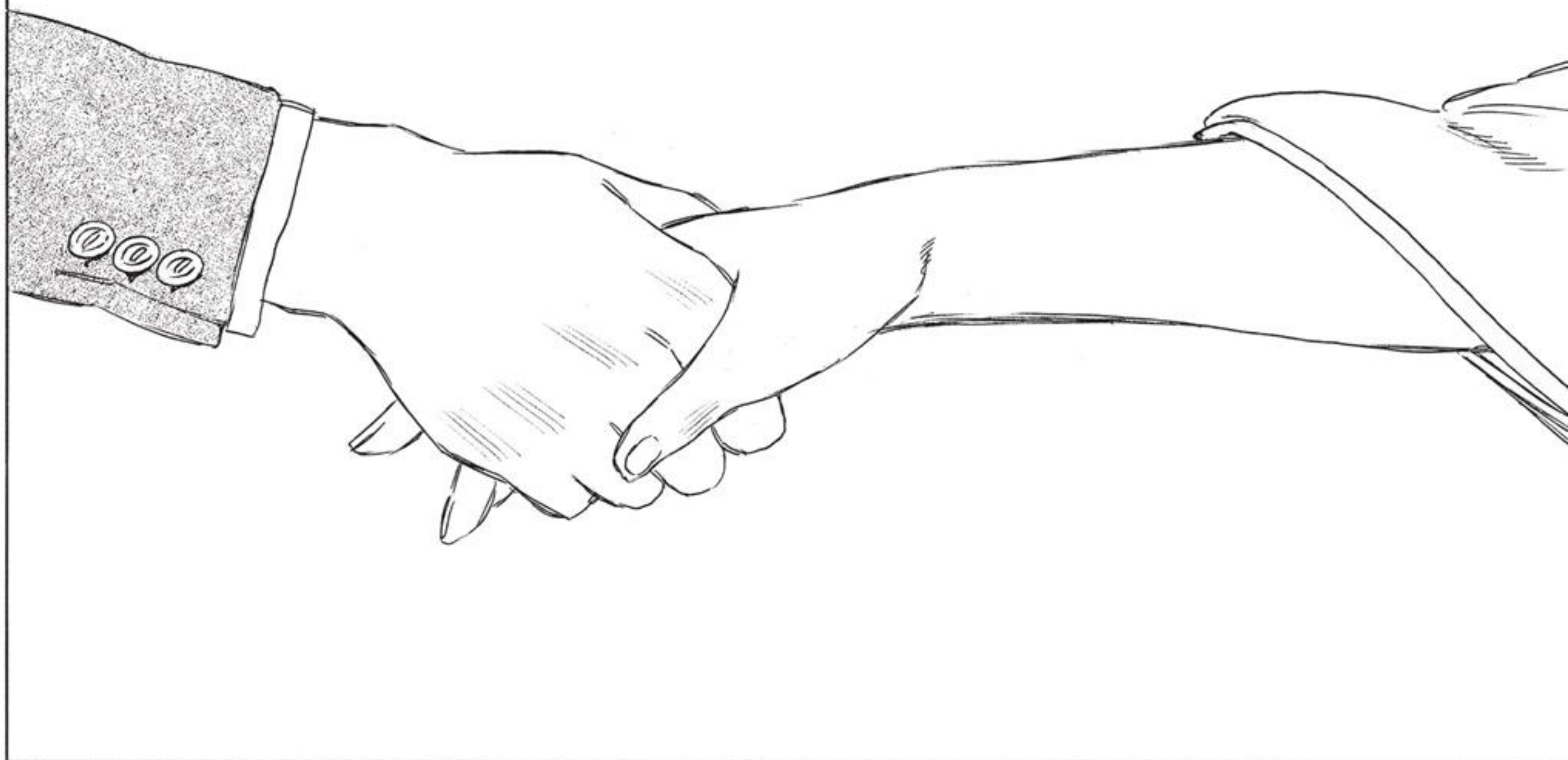
AS
LONG
AS I'M
ALIVE.

AND I
CAN OPEN
THOSE
DOORS
AT ANY
TIME...









End



a Silent Voice

Translation Notes

Japanese can be a difficult language for some readers, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

A Thousand Paper Cranes, p.87

The *senbazuru* is made up of a thousand origami cranes held together by string. It is often given to the sick or injured as a get-well gift. This is because in Japanese, *-zuru* means crane. There is a saying that goes, "a crane lives a thousand years; a turtle ten-thousand." Thus, cranes are lucky symbols; the thousand cranes bring good fortune and health for a long life.

Coming of Age Day, p.168

The Japanese holiday, *Seijin no Hi*, or Coming of Age Day falls on the second Monday of January every year. It is a day to recognize a 20-year-old as an adult and celebrate them. All those who have turned 20 in the past year, or are about to, are invited to the ceremony. It is usually held locally, or broken up by prefectures. Attendees dress formally, and traditional Japanese attire is still common. This is also an opportunity for the young women to wear a special kimono called *furisode*. Shoko and the girls are wearing *furisode* (see p.179), which are distinguishable by their very long sleeves.

A Silent Voice 7

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